

## CHINESE GORDON.

Gordon's career has been simply that of a restless and eccentric wanderer, seeking employment as fancy prompted him in different parts of the world, but achieving nothing worthy of remembrance. Family influence, and a sort of Bohemian indifference to money, coupled with a reckless love of adventure, have made him popular with the aristocracy, and opportunities have been readily afforded him for gratifying his love of change without severing his connection with the British army. He has been successively a commander in the service of the Chinese Emperor, a pasha in Egypt, an explorer in Central Africa, and an investigator of social problems in almost every country in Europe; but we cannot remember a single important achievement of his during the whole of his career, except the defeat of the Taepings.

It would be misleading to describe Gordon as a fanatic. A fanatic must be necessarily devoted to the promotion of some cause; but it is difficult to see what has been the mainspring of Gordon's career, except love of adventure unrestrained by any feeling of human life. His campaign in China was simply an interference in a domestic quarrel in which neither his own religious nor patriotic feelings were in any way engaged. An anecdote, which is told by an admiring biographer, illustrates the respect for human life entertained by Chinese Gordon. Having stormed Loohow for the Imperialists, the Viceroy proceeded to use the victory in Chinese fashion by executing a number of the captives. Gordon, who had voluntarily put himself under the orders of the Chinese Government, took exception to the proceeding, and hunted up the Viceroy with a revolver with the avowed purpose of shooting him. Eventually, however, he was satisfied with an apology, and went on with his own work of re-establishing the latter's power to immolate fresh batches of victims. On one of his exploring expeditions in the Central African wilds a native wizard was audacious enough to appear on the top of a rock near the river on which Gordon's vessel was passing, and to express by gestures his hatred of the stranger. The heart of the enemy of slavery was moved. He quietly called for a rifle and dropped the reckless scoffer, with the remark that he thought the rock was an unhealthy place for him. Gordon tried the experiment of making himself an English Sultan, as a rival to El Mahdi for the allegiance of the Arabs, but the English garrison at Khartoum has shown as little inclination to fight under Gordon as under Hicks or Baker.

## NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.

The proposed line between Mexican ports and Japan and China forms the subject of an actual contract between a company and the Government of Mexico. This was entered into in March last, the persons to whom the contract was given being Luis Lanaza, E. G. Vogel and Salvador Malo. There was no talk of including Honolulu in their route. Their steamers are to call at all the principal Mexican ports on the Pacific; and the main line is to run to Yokohama, Hongkong, Canton and Manila once a month. A handsome subsidy is to be paid by Mexico—\$19,000 the round trip, and \$2,000 per trip to any steamers that may be put on to connect this line with Central American ports or with those of the United States. Certain limits are fixed for rates of passage and freight. The steamers of the main line are not to be of less than 2500 tons, but higher speed than knots is not stipulated for. As the final port of departure from the Mexican coast will most probably be either Mazatlan or La Paz these islands will not lie in the direct route for Yokohama. The divergence, however, would be much less than in the case of the steamers running between San Francisco and that port, so a comparatively light inducement will serve to make them a call at our port. A great interest is taken in this line by the business men in Mexico, who are at present almost entirely supplied with the wares of China and Japan through transshipments from European ports. They look forward to the establishment of this line, and the completion

forces to establish branch houses in China and Japan for the purpose of establishing direct trade both ways across the Pacific.

We think it is about time our contemporaries understood that personal journalism is not acceptable to this community. If these newspapers of the railway City of Mexico to Acapulco as the means of reversing this, and it is reported that several large importing houses are joining their gave less attention to the affairs of their neighbors, and devoted themselves to the promotion of the interests of these Islands, they would be much more acceptable to their subscribers. It is positively scandalous that day after day their columns teem with these disgusting attacks. This is not proper, and offends the fine sense of the respectable element of the community. Even our intelligent and usually conservative contemporary, the *Hawaiian*, has gone to the extent of applying the term "sewer" to this journal. This is shocking and hurtful to the feelings. It is cruel irony, and beneath the calm, elevated and intellectual tone of our esteemed contemporary. We can let it pass this time, but if it occurs again we shall really be compelled, in self-defence, to make some severe remarks about the *Hawaiian*.

THE *luan* given by the Honolulu Rifles and the King's Own, on Wednesday evening, to the members of the Legislature was, in every respect, a most remarkable success. The committee, whose care it was to arrange the illuminations of the grounds, proved themselves gentlemen of rare taste, promptitude, and energy. The approach to the feast was really a fairy scene—a wilderness of lights. The tables were superbly arranged, and here the indefatigable George Fassett, who is equal to every occasion, and who not only caters in princely style, but makes a symphony in the viands, is entitled to the laurel crown. It was the personification of abundance. There were speeches, songs and music, and had Dull Care but come within earshot of that merry crowd, he would have fled, shrieking into the darkness in dismay at a healthy forgetfulness of the bitter burdens of life.

We understand that the Chinese stockholders of the *Dismal Bladder* kick like mules against assessment, No. 7. We observe in our contemporary's columns that "at a meeting held Saturday evening, August 2nd, it was decided to sell 500 shares of the Company's stock." It cannot be done, neighbor. Chinatown is already glutted with stock, and we imagine it would be difficult to give away those 500 shares. The idea of selling them is altogether out of the question. Hard times has got a tight grip of our neighbor.

SO FAR there has been little or no spirit of retrenchment shown by the members of the Legislature, the salaries of the Ministers only having so far been reduced, and this only to the extent of \$4,000, or \$1,000 each for the biennial period. His Majesty's Privy Purse and Royal State has again passed at \$50,000, the salary of His Majesty's Chamberlain has been placed at the original figure, as also have the salaries of Civil Engineer, Postmaster-General and several other individuals whose salaries it was proposed to reduce. The Royal Message had the immediate effect of organizing a torchlight procession at a few hours notice, and permitting the "Loyal Opposition" to indulge in a little outdoor oratory, inspired with a feeling that the millennium had come at last.

## The Power of Music.

"Living in the suburbs as you do I should think you would find it necessary to keep a watch dog," said a well-known Honolulu gentleman to a friend.

"I have tried it several times," was the reply, "but they won't stay about the house. I can't keep a dog without chaining him up, and that interferes with his usefulness."

Just then the gentleman's daughter began singing the passionate melody, "Wait till the clouds roll by, Jennie," and as the first speaker hurried away he muttered under his breath:

"No wonder the dogs won't stay about the house."

## EN ROUTE FOR THE GILBERT ISLANDS.

(A friend of the writer, after reading the Article published under the above title in the P. C. ADVERTISER, a few days ago, inquires "Who is Tasmania," and "Billings," and where were you going with 'Gilbert Islanders'?"—questions which may be answered somewhat as follows.)

The first purpose of the voyage of the Julia was to take back to their homes in the Gilbert Islands, formerly known as the "Kingsmill Group," something more than two hundred natives of the group whose terms of service of three years on plantations in the Hawaiian Islands had expired.

The main hold of the Julia was comfortably fitted to carry the natives, men, women and children, and a neat cabin had been built on deck for the accommodation of the officers of the vessel, two passengers and the writer.

The first two or three days out were passed in arranging the many and miscellaneous articles that had been placed on board at the last moment, and in re-arranging the internal economy of those of us to whom the ocean was antagonistic. Upon this episode in the voyage I do not care to dwell. It is all over with now, past and gone, and its details, like its substance may remain "in the deep bosom of the ocean buried."

Soon we began to get acquainted with each other. There was the Captain, of portly presence, genial and hearty, of many years' experience in the Arctic and the South seas, and still a young man; the Mate, still younger but of the sea, salty; Nantucket born, ocean bred, active and snappy; Smith, second mate and carpenter; and finally, Loui, the Chinese steward, born not made such, combining all the good qualities of his race with a low, soft whistle borrowed from Yankeeedom. For sailors the Julia had six natives of the little island of Rotomah, which lies just north of the Fiji group, who were rather more at home on the ocean than anywhere else.

Our two passengers were as diametrically opposed to each other as two men could well be and live in the same state-room for weeks without a difference. One hailed from way down East, the other from far-off Tasmania. The Yankee was extraordinarily long and lank of limb, with a shrewd, keen, pain-worn face—he was traveling for his health—and a fund of queer stories with which he often entertained us. We called him "Billings," and he called himself "Josh," which was just as good—better, in fact in the estimation of our Chinese steward. The Tasmanian was of a different stamp. He was always quoting from the Decameron, Ovid's *Metamorphosis*, Shakespeare's minor poems, and Byron's *Don Juan*, and had embarked on this voyage in the hope that in the isles of the South Seas he might realize the delights of a life free from the trammels of civilized conventionalities. As far as the strict rule, enforced by the Captain, of keeping the two classes of passengers, the natives and foreigners, apart from each other would allow, Tasmania made the physical peculiarities of the Gilbert Islanders his special study, and often dilated upon the subject at great length.

Of course, in the crowd of two hundred and twenty there were some "characters," but the fact that there was but about one-fourth of one per cent. of the whole that displayed any originality went far to prove how common-place the greater part of humanity is.

Amongst the "originals" was "Moses, the Patriarch," who was so named on account of his immense shock of white hair and full beard, the last an uncommon thing amongst these people, and a habit he had of laying down the law from the vantage ground of the top of the cook's galley, on which he camped night and day. There was "The Daddy of All," who always had a crowd of children swarming over him, hauling his old felt hat about his ears, doing wonderful things with his legs in the way of improvising them into hollows and angles of repose, crowding together within the circle of his arms, and eternally squabbling and fighting over him.

There was, also, "The Princess," a haughty-eyed young girl who rarely spoke to any one, and when she did 'twas imperiously. She had her female attendants always about her, dressing her glossy hair or caring for a little naked Cupid about a year old, whom she claimed as her own. As the daughter of a chief she had selected a snug place on board as far as the rules of the vessel permitted, and now that she was nearing her home again, after a three years absence, re-assumed the dignity proper to her exalted station in island life. There was the "Merry Andrew" of the crowd who was always playing jokes or having them played on him. He it was who was the most skillful performer on the Jews-harp, the most dexterous amongst the men at "cats cradle," could beat even Billings—no mean player—at draughts, and cheat at cards in the most innocent manner possible. Then there was that scourge of the Pacific—and elsewhere—that terror of the village, that destroyer of peace, "The Scold!" She of the snappy eyes, sharp and snakey, thin elf locks widely scattered about, and a lean tough old throat, in which, when she breathed hard, could be heard a rattling as if the teeth that were missing from her jaws had lodged there when knocked out, as we conjectured, by some despairing husband before he made away with himself. She it was who established herself on top of one of the two large wooden water tanks that stood on deck lashed to the mainmast, and while she braided long lengths of hair cord, or mechanically plied the shuttle and knotted the meshes of some hand nets, found fault with everything and everybody until the clattering chatter of her tongue was temporarily checked by the threat that she would be sent below and "made fast" unless she kept quiet.

Besides these leading characters there were many supernumeraries who filled up the gaps in the play, as it were. Moses had an audience who listened to his dogmatic utterances in the spirit of the Athenians of old; some scoffed, and others said they would hear him again on those matters—none really believed in him. The Daddy was never at peace: for when he was not monopolized by little children, he was surrounded by a bevy of older girls, at which times the envious Tasmanian used to compare him to Selinus decked with blossoms, and they tormented the old man delightfully. As for The Scold her shrill monologues were often supplemented by a chorus from the hold, where a group of old women generally basked in the square of sunlight beneath the open hatch. Three times each day, at breakfast, dinner and tea, an eruption of tin pots, pans and spoons broke out over the whole ship, raging with the greatest violence about the cook's galley for a while and then subsiding. It is, perhaps, needless to say that noise was the one pervading feature of the sixteen days run to the Gilbert group; but as it was of a good natured character, it did not alarm so much as annoy, and even this feeling after a while passed away and as boiler-makers sweetly slumber in the din of their shops, so we secured rest in spite of the racket around us.

## POPPING THE QUESTION.

A Few Facts from a Philosopher Who Would Pop.

Popping the question is a strictly masculine institution, though it involves the presence of a woman. If a man popped all alone and no woman to catch on to his pop, he'd be a blamed fool for his trouble.

Men have been known to pop at all times and in a variety of places, but those who have been there say that a good solid pop over a garden gate lays over any other sort of a pop, and is the happiest kind of a pop.

All women like to hear a man pop his poppiest, and have been known to get mad if the pop was a weak, sickly kind of a pop, without style, self-respect or force of character.

Men get off the best kind of a pop when they have both of their girl's hands in their own, or have one of their arms around her waist. This action gives tone and force to the pop. Helps to hold the fellow up while making it.

Some fellows take naturally to popping and are going off all the time. To others it is a painful and laborious proceeding only to be attempted once in a lifetime, and then only as small a pop as they can possibly get away with.

When a fellow's pop is acceptable to a girl, it instantly involves a kiss; when it is not acceptable, kissing is not involved.

When a fellow pops he always pops at his best girl. No fellow ever pops at his second or third best girl. There is no exception to this rule.

Popping is a very ancient and honorable institution and the girls like it. A girl who has never heard a pop never confesses as much. She invents a pop so that the other girls cannot get the dead wood on her. We believe in popping, and shall probably experiment in that direction some day. — *Winnipeg Siftings*.

## ISLAND NOTES.

KOHALA, August 14th.

If the roads in this district are not soon put in repair some serious accident will occur. The bridges are actually dangerous in some localities, and the supervisor says he can get no money to fix them. Wherever the fault lies it is a shameful neglect of duty. Less Supervisor-Generals and more work on this road is what we want.

It would be quite a convenience to the public if the Station Agent at Halawa would either stay at his post or else leave his key where parties after freight can find it. It is not just the thing to oblige expensive excursions for freight to be repeated several times in order to obtain goods sent by railroad. Planters have other work to attend to at this season of the year.

Queen Emma has been in town for some time, and has received a great deal of attention from all nationalities. She was especially entertained by Messrs. Kynnersly, Kaai, Kekipi and Puahi.

One of the overseers of the Kehala Sugar Company was arrested for striking a Portuguese boy about 14 years of age and was fined for the fun he had had. The boy has since been arrested for refusing to work when he claimed to be sick.

Our Sheriff arrested a large number of Chinamen a short time since for having more liquor of an intoxicating nature than was absolutely necessary for their health.

The entertainment given at the club in honor of Queen Emma by Messrs. Kynnersly was a brilliant and well attended affair in spite of the terrible night on which it was held, and the fine toilets would have done honor to a much larger place.

A petition is being circulated and very thoroughly signed, asking the Minister of Interior to encourage the immigration of more Chinese. They are by far the most reliable labor we have, and much more peaceably inclined than any other class. The only objection to them is that the merchants cannot make so much out of them as of other nationalities, but it is cheap sugar that is the great question now in this Kingdom.

We learn that in the suit of Akiona vs. K. S. Co., the former took the stakes. It is full as well to "deal gently with the erring ones" if you don't want to pay for the music.

The Dramatic Hall and drug store have been sold to the "Lock Shin Tong" society, and Dr. Thompson will move his office to his new residence in Makapala.

We are told that several Portuguese in the employ of the Star Mill Company have been released from their contracts by order of Judge Hart, on the ground that they were not legally shipped to that concern. Mr. Evert appeals to Honolulu.

## A New Air Ship.

General Russel Thayer, civil engineer and superintendent of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, believes that he has at last succeeded in inventing an air-ship that will make thirty-five miles an hour. As described by the *Times*, the ship consists of two parts, the part which enables it to float and the deck. The buoyant part is made of strong silk and rubber, and is filled with hydrogen gas. In shape it is a circular spindle. It is 147 feet long by 40 feet in diameter midships. Below the buoyant part and securely braced and supported from it is the deck, where the machinery is placed, and where passengers and freight can be accommodated. Opposite the center of the ship is a lower deck completely enclosed and shut off from the rest of the structure, in which are located the boiler and fire. From the cylinder of the steel-air compressor on the deck a pipe leads all or part of the force wasted in the production of motion to the rear of the ship, where a nozzle fitted on a ball and socket joint permits the wasted force to be discharged into the air in any direction. This discharge steers the ship, and makes a rudder unnecessary. In the interior of the buoyant part of the ship is placed a large silk sack connected with the air compressor on the deck. Four cylinders filled with compressed hydrogen are placed on the deck, and these are connected with the buoyant part by tubes furnished with cocks. These appliances enable the ship to travel at any desired elevation above the earth, and to ascend or descend without the use of ballast. By withdrawing hydrogen from the buoyant part and forcing air from the compressor into the silk sack within the buoyant part of the buoyancy is diminished, while the exterior form is not changed, and the reverse of this operation will restore the buoyancy and cause the ship to ascend. It is proposed to travel at an elevation of a few hundred feet only, sufficient to clear terrestrial objects.

Greely is gaining strength. He has been feted and banquetted by the leading citizens of St. Johns. The relief party will arrive in New York simultaneously.